

LAKESIDE COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Montana Public Water Supply ID number 00266

2006 Water Quality Report

In compliance with the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act and in an effort to keep you informed about the quality of water and services we provide to you each day, we're pleased to provide you with our Annual Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water we provided you last year. It includes details regarding the source of your water, what your water contains and how it compares to EPA and the State of Montana standards.

Our drinking water comes from three wells. The Brass well (#1) is 172 feet deep, the Hall well (#2) is 323 feet deep, and the Tank well (#4) is 755 feet deep. We have 284 service connections and have added two new connections this year.

We want you, our valued customers to be informed about your water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeside Water & Sewer District office located at 253 Bierney Creek Rd. in Lakeside.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all Federal and State requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Lakeside County Water and Sewer District office at (406) 844-3881. We have four certified water operators; George Allen has four years of experience, Jim Heim and Tom Christensen each have three years of experience, and Kevin Severe has eight years of experience. All of our water operators attend periodic training sessions to meet continuing education requirements.

DID YOU KNOW ? The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive elements. Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in water include:

- 1) Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- 2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- 3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 4) Volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes, petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- 5) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

DEFINITIONS:

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

PPM - Parts per million or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

PPB - Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

AL - Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Pci/L - Pico Curies per Liter - a very small unit of measurement of radioactivity.

What does this table tell us?

As you can see our system had no MCL violations. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects of exceeding the MCL, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one in a million chance of having any adverse health effects. Although we have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by contaminants that are naturally occurring or man made. Those contaminants can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or online at www.epa.gov/safewater.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, or online at www.epa.gov/safewater. You can find out more about our system and the specific contaminants we have tested for, on the web at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/pws/reports.asp>.

In February of 2003 the State of Montana completed a source water assessment of our system. This report provides additional information on the potential vulnerability of our wells to contamination. This report is available for review in our office. The report can be summarized in the following table:

Susceptibility Assessment

Source	Containment	Hazard	Hazard Rating	Barriers	Susceptibility	Management
Highway 93	Transported hazardous materials	Spills	Moderate	Clay rich confining layer	Low	Spill response plan
PWS Wells	Various	Introduction into well	Moderate	Well cap	Moderate	Secure well heads
Service stations	Gasoline & other fuels	Spills, releases	Moderate	Clay rich confining layer	Low / moderate	Spill response plan
Air break vault	Pathogens, solvents	Surface leakage	Moderate	Clay rich confining layer	Low / moderate	Monitoring
Residences	Household	Releases	Low	Clay rich confining layer	Low	Education of homeowners
Domestic wells	Various	Surface leakage	Moderate	Well cap	Low	Lock wells, monitoring
Sanitary sewer main	Nitrates	Leaks	Low	Clay rich confining layer	Low	Monitoring

Our water system is committed to providing our customers with safe, pure water and we are pleased that our water meets or exceeds all established state and federal standards. Thank you for reviewing this report.

Prepared by Montana Environmental Lab, LLC 1/07